

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /098 W

-----242241Z 075600 /45

R 240802Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4160

MADRAS 0498 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 23 MAR 77.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 0498

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN

SUBJECT: ASAMERA OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MANNAR TO
BE FURTHER DELAYED

REF: MADRAS 0483

1. REFTTEL REPORTED A FIRE ON GLOMAR IV WHICH WAS ENTOUTE
FROM SINGAPORE TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE GULF OF MANNAR
TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY OIL DRILLING FOR ASAMERA. GENERAL
REPRESENTATIVE SHRIRAM HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
DETAILS. THE FIRE BADLY DAMAGED ONE OF THE SHIP'S TWO ENGINE
ROOMS, BUT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS CREW INJURIES. THE CAUSE
OF THE FIRE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. EXCEPTING THE MASTER
AND FIRST MATE, THE CREW WAS EVACUATED TO ANOTHER SHIP WHICH
HAPPENED TO BE IN THE VICINITY, AND GLOMAR IS NOW RETURNING TO
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SINGAPORE UNDER TOW. THE SHIP WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPAIRS
WHICH THE OWNERS, GLOBAL MARINE INC., MAY DECIDE NOT TO
UNDERTAKE BECAUSE OF THE WORLD SURPLUS OF DRILLING SHIPS.

2. THIS ACCIDENT HAS CREATED A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR ASAMERA.
THE TYPES OF DRILLING SHIPS WHICH ARE GENERALLY
AVAILABLE ARE SIMILAR TO GLOMAR IV WHICH HAD BEEN

ENGAGED WHEN IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE EXPLORATORY DRILLING, REQUIRING AN ESTIMATED 67 DAYS, COULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE SOUTH WEST MONSOON BEGINS IN JUNE. HOWEVER, THE GLOMAR-TYPE SHIPS ARE UNABLE TO DRILL IN HEAVY WEATHER AND A LARGER MORE SOPHISTICATED DRILLING SHIP WILL NOW BE REQUIRED. SHRIRAM IS IN TOUCH WITH THE OFF-SHORE COMPANY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO LEASE ONE OF THEIR NEW DISCOVERCLASS SHIPS WHICH COULD CONTINUE DRILLING DURING THE MONSOON SEASON. THIS WILL BE EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE THAN GLOMAR IV, WHICH WOULD HAVE COST \$12,500 PER DAY. MEANWHILE, THE ASAMERA-LEASED SIKORSKY 58 HELICOPTER IS IDLE, AT A COST OF \$36,000 PER MONTH. SHRIRAM WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PREDICTION AS TO WHEN EXPLORATORY DRILLING WOULD BEGIN.
MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: ASAMERA OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MANNAR TO BE FURTHER DELAYED
TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1799f0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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